

REMARKS

An RCE application is concurrently filed herewith in reply to the Final rejection to have an IDS (also concurrently filed herewith) considered by the examiner.

Claims 1, 3-23, and 25-27 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 3-22 have been amended to improve the form and remove the informalities identified by the examiner. Independent claims 1 and 22 have been further amended to include the features of allowable claims 2 and 24, respectively. No new matter has been introduced.

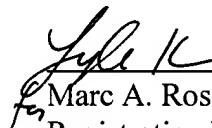
Claims 15-21 and 25-27 were allowed, and claims 2-5, 7-16, and 24 have been indicated to be allowable if placed in independent form. As independent claims 2 and 24 now incorporate claims 2 and 24, respectively, and the informalities identified by the examiner have been overcome, applicants submit that claims 1, 3-23, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance.

The present amendment renders moot the art rejections based on Kurokawa (USP 6,066,587).

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Respectfully submitted,

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